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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: ANTIPROLIFERATIVE COLCHICINE COMPOSITIONS AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: A method of treatment of a host with a cellular proliferative disease, including contacting the host with a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent, each in an amount sufficient to modulate said cellular proliferative disease, is described. In some embodiments, the colchicine family member is (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide. Antiproliferative agents of the invention include agents that interact with nucleic acids, for example, etoposide, camptothecin, and cisplatin. Antiproliferative agents of the invention also include agents that interact with tubulin targets, for example, paclitaxel and vinblastine. The invention also includes compositions containing a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61P35/00 A61K31/165 A61K31/337 A61K31/4745 A61K31/475 A61K31/7048 A61K33/24 //(A61K33/24,31:165),(A61K31/7048, 31:165),(A61K31/475,31:165),(A61K31/337,31:165),(A61K31/4745,

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 02 26220 A (UNIV NORTH CAROLINA) 4 April 2002 (2002-04-04) claims 8,11,13 ---	1,2,6-8, 18,19, 23,24
P,X	WO 01 68098 A (BROWN DENNIS M ;CHEMGENEX THERAPEUTICS INC (US); MICHAELS SHAWNYA) 20 September 2001 (2001-09-20) page 13, line 2-6; claims 1,6-11,13,14 ---	1,2, 14-19,24
P,X	US 6 168 619 B1 (ALVARADO ANGELICA ET AL) 2 January 2001 (2001-01-02) claims 17-19,27 ---	1,2,6-8, 15,18, 19,23,24

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
10 July 2002	02/08/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Tardi, C

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IPC 7 31:165)

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	LIU JIN-HWANG ET AL: "Tamoxifen and colchicine-modulated vinblastine followed by 5-fluorouracil in advanced renal cell carcinoma: A phase II study." UROLOGY, vol. 57, no. 4, April 2001 (2001-04), pages 650-654, XP002204868 ISSN: 0090-4295 abstract	1,6,7,9
X	EP 0 037 175 A (EFAMOL LTD) 7 October 1981 (1981-10-07) page 1, line 7-11; claims 1,4,17	1,2, 14-16, 18,19,24

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
10 July 2002	

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Tardi, C

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 01/44661

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 00238 A (QUANAM MEDICAL CORP) 6 January 2000 (2000-01-06) claims 1,2,4,10	1,2,10, 12,15, 18,19, 22,24
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

tional Application No
PCT/US 01/44661

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE EMBASE 'Online! ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM, NL; GOMEZ G.A. ET AL: "Chemotherapy of the terminal phase of chronic myelocytic leukemia with combinations of colchicine derivatives and purine analogs." retrieved from STN Database accession no. 79008257 XP002205450 abstract & LEUKEMIA RESEARCH, (1978) 2/2 (141-146). CODEN: LEREDD, ---	1,3,5,10
X	MASHIMA Y ET AL: "Combination chemotherapy in isolation perfusion: use of mitotic inhibitors in pretreatment of V x 2 carcinoma undergoing isolation perfusion with alkylating agents." CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY REPORTS. PART 1. UNITED STATES APR 1972, vol. 56, no. 2, April 1972 (1972-04), pages 175-181, XP001087717 ISSN: 0069-0112 page 176, column 2, line 23-33 page 177; table 1 page 179, column 1, line 14 -column 2, line 16 ---	1,3,5, 10,14
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

	onal Application No
	PCT/US 01/44661

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 953 955 A (CIBA LTD) 2 April 1964 (1964-04-02) the whole document	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ternational application No.
PCT/US 01/44661

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. [X] Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Although claims 1-17 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

2. [X] Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. [ ] Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1-7, 10, 14-21 and 24 disclose a method and/or composition including the administration of an "antiproliferative agent", which relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds. Support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT is to be found, however, for only a very small proportion of the methods and compositions claimed. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds etoposide, vinblastine, paclitaxel, cisplatin and camptothecin as antiproliferative agents.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

nal Application No
PCT/US 01/44661

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **CHEMGENEX THERAPEUTICS, INC.** [US/US]; Suite M, 3475 Edison Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US).

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Published:

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(54) Title: ANTIPROLIFERATIVE COLCHICINE COMPOSITIONS AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: A method of treatment of a host with a cellular proliferative disease, including contacting the host with a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent, each in an amount sufficient to modulate said cellular proliferative disease, is described. In some embodiments, the colchicine family member is (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide. Antiproliferative agents of the invention include agents that interact with nucleic acids, for example, etoposide, camptothecin, and cisplatin. Antiproliferative agents of the invention also include agents that interact with tubulin targets, for example, paclitaxel and vinblastine. The invention also includes compositions containing a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent.

ANTIPROLIFERATIVE COLCHICINE COMPOSITIONS AND USES THEREOF

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application numbers 60/244,765, 60/244,910, 60/244,911, 60/244,912, and 60/244,913, each filed on October 31, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The technical field of the invention is the use of colchicine family members with antiproliferative agents to treat a host with a cellular proliferative disease.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Microtubules are involved in many important cellular functions such as cell division, cell motility, secretion, ciliary and flagellar movement, intracellular transport, and the maintenance of cell shape. Agents that interfere with mitotic spindle function likewise inhibit mitosis. Such agents are sometimes referred to as "antimitotic agents."

Many classes of chemical compounds control microtubule assembly/disassembly by binding to tubulin. Virtually all of the observed therapeutic as well as toxic effects of the antimitotic drugs may be attributed to their actions on microtubule assembly and the subsequent microtubule-mediated processes.

Of the best characterized antimitotic agents, only paclitaxel and the vinca alkaloids such as vincristine, vinblastine and vinorelbine are currently approved as anticancer drugs. The use of agents for targeting the colchicine binding site of tubulin, in particular colchicine, remain unexploited as anticancer medicines. For example, colchicine, an antiinflammatory agent, is mainly used in the treatment of gouty arthritis.

Conventional cancer chemotherapies utilize agents from a variety of chemical classes having antiproliferative activity. There is considerable interest in modulating the efficacy of currently used antiproliferative agents to increase the rates and duration of antitumor effects in conventional antineoplastic therapies.

Topoisomerase inhibitors and cisplatin are important antiproliferative agents for cancer chemotherapy. The clinical activity of topoisomerase inhibitors and cisplatin against a number of types of cancers are demonstratable. However, improvements in tumor response rates, duration of response and ultimately patient survival are still sought. One aspect of the invention described herein is the novel use of DNA targeting agents to potentiate the antitumor effects of chemotherapeutic drugs, including cisplatin and topoisomerase I and II inhibiting agents, in particular, etoposide and camptothecins.

Additionally, taxanes and vinca alkaloids, agents which are believed to share a binding site on tubulin, demonstrate antiproliferative activity against a number of cancers. Again, however, improvements in tumor response rates, duration of response and ultimately patient survival are still sought. Thus, another aspect of the invention described herein is the novel use of colchicine, colchicine analogs, and other agents which bind to the colchicine binding site of beta-tubulin, to control tumor growth in a therapeutic treatment regimen with other tubulin targeting agents, such as the taxane, paclitaxel, and the vinca alkaloids, vinblastine and vincristine.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Methods and compositions are provided for the treatment of a host with a cellular proliferative disease, particularly a neoplasia. In the subject methods, a pharmaceutically acceptable colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent are administered in an amount sufficient to modulate the cellular proliferative disease.

In one aspect of the invention, the colchicine family member comprises colchicine, (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide; in another aspect, the colchicine family member comprises an analog thereof.

The antiproliferative agent of the invention may comprise an agent that interacts with nucleic acids. Alternatively, the antiproliferative agent may comprise an agent that interacts with tubulin targets.

In some aspects of the invention, the antiproliferative agent comprises taxanes, vinca alkaloids or a tubulin targeted agent. In other aspects, the antiproliferative agent comprises paclitaxel. In still other aspects, the antiproliferative agent comprises vinblastine.

Alternatively, the antiproliferative agent may comprise etoposide. In yet another aspect, the antiproliferative agent may comprise camptothecin. Furthermore, the antiproliferative agent may comprise cisplatin.

The antiproliferative agent of the invention may comprise an alkylating agent. Alternatively, the antiproliferative agent may be an intercalating agent. In yet another aspect, the antiproliferative agent is a metal coordination complex. The antiproliferative may be a pyrimidine nucleoside. In still another aspect, the antiproliferative agent is a purine nucleoside. In other aspects, the antiproliferative agent is an inhibitor of nucleic acid associated enzymes or an inhibitor of nucleic acid associated proteins.

The antiproliferative agent may be an antimitotic agent. In some aspects, the antiproliferative agent is an antimetabolite. The antiproliferative agent may also be a structural protein agent, an antibiotic, a hormone antagonist or a nucleic acid damaging agent. In still other aspects, the antiproliferative agent is an intercalating agent. The antiproliferative agent may also be a topoisomerase inhibitor, an agent that affects tubulin or a metal coordination complex.
In some aspects, the colchicine family member is administered before the administration of said antiproliferative agent. In alternative aspects, the colchicine family member is administered during the administration of said antiproliferative agent. In still other aspects,

the colchicine family member is administered after the administration of said antiproliferative agent.

According to some aspects of the invention, the effect on the treated disease with the colchicine family member and antiproliferative composition is greater than that for said antiproliferative agent alone.

The invention also includes a composition comprising a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent. The colchicine family member of the composition may comprise colchicine, i.e., (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide, or it may comprise an analog thereof. The invention also includes such compositions wherein the antiproliferative agent comprises etoposide, cisplatin, or camptothecin. Alternatively, the compositions of the invention include an antiproliferative agent such as vinblastine or paclitaxel.

Use of a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent in the formulation of a medicament for the treatment of a cellular proliferative disease is also encompassed by the present invention. According to some aspects, the antiproliferative used is vinblastine. According to other aspects, the antiproliferative used is paclitaxel. In still other aspects, the antiproliferative used may be etoposide, camptothecin or cisplatin.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 depicts the general structure of a colchicine family member. R_1 through R_6 represent possible substitution groups.

Figure 2 depicts the chemical structure of colchicine, a colchicine family member described by the chemical name (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide.

Figure 3 depicts tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with etoposide, colchicine, or both colchicine and etoposide.

Figure 4 depicts tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with camptothecin, colchicine, or both colchicine and camptothecin.

Figure 5 demonstrates data from an additional experiment with camptothecin. Figure 5 depicts tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with camptothecin, colchicine, or both colchicine and camptothecin. "Colchx3" or "Colchicine x 3" indicates treatment with three doses of colchicine.

Figure 6 depicts tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with cisplatin, colchicine, or both colchicine and cisplatin.

Figures 7 and 8 depict tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with vinblastine, colchicine, or both colchicine and vinblastine.

Figure 9 depicts tumor growth delay, as tumor volume on days after treatment with paclitaxel, colchicine, or both colchicine and paclitaxel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Methods and compositions are provided for the treatment of a host with a cellular proliferative disease, particularly a neoplasia. In the subject methods, a pharmaceutically acceptable colchicine family member is administered, orally or systemically, in conjunction with an antiproliferative agent to improve the anticancer effects. In a preferred embodiment, the colchicine family member provides a chemopotentiator effect.

The agents are provided in amounts sufficient to modulate a cellular proliferative disease. In one embodiment, modulation of a cellular proliferative disease comprises a reduction in

tumor growth. In another embodiment, modulation of a disease comprises inhibition of tumor growth. In another embodiment, modulation of a cellular proliferative disease comprises an increase in tumor volume quadrupling time (described below). In another embodiment, modulation of a cellular proliferative disease comprises a chemopotentiator effect. In another embodiment, modulation of a disease comprises a chemosensitizing effect. In other embodiments, modulation of a disease comprises cytostasis. In still other embodiments, modulation of a disease comprises a cytotoxic effect.

A chemical agent is a "chemopotentiator" when it enhances the effect of a known antiproliferative drug in a more than additive fashion relative to the activity of the chemopotentiator or antiproliferative agent used alone. In some cases, a "chemosensitizing" effect may be observed. This is defined as the effect of use of an agent that if used alone would not demonstrate significant antitumor effects but would improve the antitumor effects of an antiproliferative agent as compared to the antiproliferative agent by itself.

As used herein, "colchicines" or "the colchicine family" includes colchicine and colchicine analogs, generally defined by the chemical structure in Figure 1.

A preferred colchicine family member is colchicine, (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide, depicted in Figure 2. Colchicine may also be described by the following chemical and drug names: N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)-acetamide; N-acetyltrimethylcolchicinic acid methyl ether; 7-acetamido-6,7-dihydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxybenzo[a]heptalen-9(5H)-one; 7alphaH-colchicine; colchineos; colchisol; colcin; colsaloid; condylon; colchiceine methyl ether; Colgout; colchicine crystalline.

A colchicine analog is another preferred member of the colchicine family, generally defined by but not limited to the structure depicted in Figure 1, having substituent changes or substitute groups at one or more of R_1 through R_6. Table 1 lists some possible structures of R_1 through R_6 for colchicine analogs. R group substitutions are typically employed to improve biological activity, enhance pharmaceutical attributes such as bioavailability or

stability, or decrease toxicity. In one embodiment, R groups include alkyl substitutions (*e.g.*, methyl, ethyl, propyl etc.). In another embodiment, R groups include an alkoxy (*e.g.*, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, etc.) substitution. In still other embodiments, R groups include an amino group substitution. In still other embodiments, R groups include a thiol group substitution. Substitutions at R_1 through R_6 are not limited to the above examples, however.

In a preferred embodiment, the substitution or substitutions are of one or more of the substituents corresponding to the R_1 through R_6 positions of colchicine.

Table 1

R group	Substitution	Structure/Length
R_{1-3}	Alkyl	$-C_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Alkoxy	$-OC_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Glucoside	-GluO
	Hydrogen	-H
R_4	Thiol	$-SC_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Alkyl	$-C_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Alkoxy	$-OC_1 \rightarrow C_5$
R_5	Alkyl	$-C_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Alkoxy	$-OC_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Carbonyl oxygen	=O
R_6	Alkyl	$-C_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Amino	$-NH_2$
	Nitro	$-NO_2$
	Cyano	$-C\equiv N$
	Alkoxy	$-OC_1 \rightarrow C_5$
	Thiol	-SH
	Acetamide	$-NH-CO-CH_3$

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the colchicine analog is thiocolchicine (i.e., (S)-N-[5, 6, 7, 9-Tetrahydro-1, 2, 3-trimethoxy-10-(methylthio)-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl]-acetamide). In another preferred embodiment, the colchicine analog is 3-demethyl thiocolchicine. In still another preferred embodiment, the colchicine analog is

thiocolchicoside (i.e., 2-demethoxy-2-glucosidoxythiocolchicine, Colcamyl, Coltramyl, Coltromyl, Coltrax, or Musco-Ril). In another preferred embodiment, the colchicine analog is colchicinamide.

Conventional antiproliferative agents used in the treatment of cancer are broadly grouped as (1) chemical compounds which affect the integrity of nucleic acid polymers by binding, alkylating, inducing strand breaks, intercalating between base pairs or affecting enzymes which maintain the integrity and function of DNA and RNA; (2) chemical agents that bind to proteins to inhibit enzymatic action (*e.g.*, antimetabolites) or the function of structural proteins necessary for cellular integrity (*e.g.*, antitubulin agents). Other chemical compounds that have been identified to be useful in the treatment of some cancers include drugs which block steroid hormone action for the treatment of breast and prostate cancer, photochemically activated agents, radiation sensitizers and protectors.

As used herein, antiproliferative agents are compounds which induce cytostasis or cytotoxicity. "Cytostasis" is the inhibition of cells from growing, while "cytotoxicity" is defined as the killing of cells. Specific examples of antiproliferative agents include: antimetabolites, such as methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil, gemcitabine, cytarabine, pentostatin, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, L-asparaginase, hydroxyurea, N-phosphonoacetyl-L-aspartate (PALA), fludarabine, 2-chlorodeoxyadenosine, and floxuridine; structural protein agents, such as the vinca alkaloids, including vinblastine, vincristine, vindesine, vinorelbine, and paclitaxel; antibiotics, such as dactinomycin, daunorubicin, doxorubicin, idarubicin, bleomycins, plicamycin, and mitomycin; hormone antagonists, such as tamoxifen and luteinizing hormone releasing hormone (LHRH) analogs; nucleic acid damaging agents such as alkylating agents, *e.g.*, mechlorethamine, cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide, chlorambucil, dacarbazine, methylnitrosourea, semustine (methyl-CCNU), chlorozotocin, busulfan, procarbazine, melphalan, carmustine (BCNU), lomustine (CCNU), and thiotepa; fraudulent nucleosides such as purine and pyrimidine analogs; intercalating agents, *e.g.*, doxorubicin, dactinomycin, daurorubicin and mitoxantrone; topoisomerase inhibitors, *e.g.*, etoposide, camptothecin, camptothecin analogs, and teniposide; agents that affect tubulin, *e.g.*, paclitaxel, and metal coordination complexes, *e.g.*, cisplatin and carboplatin.

Of special interest to this invention are compounds that directly affect the integrity of the genetic structure of the cancer cells. Nucleic acid polymers such as DNA and RNA are prime targets for anticancer drugs. Alkylating agents such as nitrogen mustards, nitrosoureas, aziridine containing compounds directly attack DNA. Metal coordination compounds such as cisplatin and carboplatin similarly directly attack the nucleic acid structure resulting in lesions that are difficult for the cells to repair, which in turn, can result in cell death. Other nucleic acid affecting compounds include anthracycline molecules such as doxorubicin, which intercalates between the nucleic acid base pairs of DNA polymers, bleomycin which causes nucleic acid strand breaks, and fraudulent nucleosides such as pyrimidine and purine nucleoside analogs which are inappropriately incorporated into nucleic polymer structures and ultimately cause premature DNA chain termination. Certain enzymes that affect the integrity and functionality of the genome can also be inhibited in cancer cells by specific chemical agents and result in cancer cell death. These include enzymes that affect ribonucleotide reductase (*e.g.*, hydroxyurea, gemcitabine), topoisomerase I (*e.g.*, camptothecin) and topoisomerase II (*e.g.*, etoposide).

The topoisomerase enzymes affect the structure of supercoiled DNA, because most of the functions of DNA require untwisting. Topoisomerase I (top1) untwists supercoiled DNA, breaking only one of the two strands, whereas topoisomerase II (top2) breaks both.

Topoisomerase I inhibition has become important in cancer chemotherapy through the finding that camptothecin (CPT), an alkaloid of plant origin, is the best known inhibitor of top1 and is a very potent anticancer agent. CPT is contained in a Chinese tree, *Camptotheca acuminata.* A number of analogs have become approved for commercial use to treat a number of tumor types. These include CPT-11 (irinotecan) and topotecan.

Topoisomerase II inhibition has also become important in cancer chemotherapy. Chemical families such as the anthracyclines and epipodophyllotoxins play a key role. Drugs from these families (*e.g.*, doxorubicin and etoposide among other chemicals affecting

topoisomerase II such as amsacrine, elliptinium, mitoxantrone, azatoxin, genistein, amonafide etc.) form cleavable complexes between the DNA and the topoisomerase II enzyme.

The clinical use of topoisomerase II inhibitors, for example, doxorubicin, amsacrine, etoposide and mitoxantrone, have provided clinical utility to a number of cancers, in particular, solid tumors.

Another agent that targets DNA is cisplatin (cis-diamminedichloroplatinum II), a broadly used anticancer drug. This compound is active against several human cancers including testicular, small-cell lung, bladder, cervical and head and neck cancer.

Also of special interest to this invention are compounds that are known to bind with high affinity to the microtubule protein, tubulin, thereby disrupting microtubule assembly and causing mitotic (cell division) arrest of the proliferating cells. For this reason, "antitubulin agents" are also known as "antimitotic agents," "microtubule inhibitors" or as "spindle poisons."

Most of the well characterized antimitotic agents may be arbitrarily divided into three classes: those compounds that competitively inhibit colchicine binding to tubulin and thereby interact with tubulin on the colchicine binding sites (including colchicinoids, podophyllotoxins, steganacins, combretastatins, and amphethinile), those compounds that are believed to share a common binding site on tubulin with the Catharanthus (Vinca) alkaloids (including compounds such as vincristine, vinblastine, maytansinoids, phomopsin A, rhizoxin, the marine antimitotic peptide dolastatin 10) and paclitaxel, a novel taxane diterpenoid isolated from the bark of the Pacific yew which has a very unique antimitotic action. Instead of inhibiting microtubule assembly, paclitaxel and other taxanes promote the formation of stable microtubules that eventually lead to mitotic arrest of proliferating cells.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

EXAMPLES

For the examples below, transplantable experimental murine fibrosarcomas ($2x10^5$ RIF-1 cells) were grown intradermally in the flanks of 3 month old female C3H mice (Charles River, Holister, CA). When the tumors reached a volume of approximately $100mm^3$, the mice were randomly assigned to each experimental group (4 mice per group).

Colchicine was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO) and was made to the appropriate concentration in water for injection. After the treatments described below, the growth of the tumors was monitored three times per week by caliper measurements of three perpendicular diameters of the tumor. The tumor volume was calculated from the formula:

$$V = \pi /6 \times D_1 \times D_2 \times D_3,$$

where D_{1-3} are the diameter measurements in mm.

In each Example, the tumors were followed until they reached a size of four times their day zero treatment volume (TVQT), or up to 30 days after treatment, whichever came first. The data is expressed as the "tumor volume quadrupling time" (TVQT) mean and as the "delay." Mean TVQT is the mean days required for individual tumors to grow to four times the tumor volume at the initial treatment day. The "delay" is the median of days required for a tumor to grow to four times the mean size of the treated group, minus the median of days required to grow to four times the mean size of the control group. The data is also expressed as the ratio of the tumor volume quadrupling time of the treated tumor over the untreated control group (TVQT/CTVQT). Increasing values of this ratio indicate increased antitumor response.

Example 1: Chemopotentiation of Etoposide by Colchicine

Etoposide (Sigma-Aldrich, lot. 46H078) was made to the appropriate concentration in DMSO. Etoposide and colchicine were injected systemically (i.e., intraperitoneally, i.p.), in a volume of 100 µl. The experimental compositions were prepared as described in Table 2.

Table 2

Agent	Dose	Solvent	Supplier
Colchicine	2 mg/kg	Water for Injection	Sigma-Aldrich
Etoposide	10 mg/kg	DMSO	Sigma-Aldrich

The data is presented in Table 3 below and in Figure 3.

Table 3

Group	Treatment	Dose (mg/kg)	Mean TVQT ± S.E.	TVQT/ CTVQT	Median (TVQT)	Delay (Days)
1	Untreated Control	-	7.6 ± 0.3	-	7.7	0.00
2	Colchicine	2	9.5 ± 0.2	1.2	9.3	1.65
3	Etoposide	10	7.7 ± 0.5	1.0	7.5	-0.17
4	Colchicine + Etoposide	2/10	11.3 ± 0.5	1.5	11.1	3.45

The results of Table 3 indicate that the antiproliferative activity of etoposide is enhanced by the use of colchicine in that a more than additive effect was observed when both compounds were used to treat the tumor bearing mice (group 4) in comparison to the use of etoposide alone (group 3) or colchicine alone (group 2).

Example 2: Chemopotentiation of Camptothecin by Colchicine

A. Effect of Single Doses of Colchicine Administered Concurrently with Camptothecin

Camptothecin (Boehringer Ingelheim-Lot 71012) was made to the appropriate concentration in DMSO. Colchicine was given orally in a volume of 100 µl. Camptothecin was injected systemically (i.e., intraperitoneally, i.p.), in a volume of 100 µl. For the treatment of group 3, colchicine was given orally immediately prior to the intraperitoneal injection of camptothecin. The experimental compositions were prepared as described in Table 4.

Table 4

Agent	Dose	Solvent	Supplier
Colchicine	10 mg/kg	Water for injection	Sigma-Aldrich
Camptothecin	6 mg/kg	DMSO	Boehringer Ingelheim

The data is presented in Table 5 below and in Figure 4.

Table 5

Group	Treatment	Dose (mg/kg)	Mean TVQT ± S.E.	TVQT/ CTVQT	Median (TVQT)	Delay (Days)
1	Untreated Control	-	6.3 ± 0.3	-	6.3	0.00
2	Colchicine	10	6.4 ± 0.3	1.0	6.3	0.02
3	Camptothecin	6	9.4 ± 0.5	1.5	9.9	3.60
4	Colchicine + Camptothecin	10 / 6	10.9 ± 0.2	1.7	10.9	4.60

The results of Table 5 indicate that the antiproliferative activity of camptothecin is enhanced by the use of colchicine in that a more than additive effect was observed when both compounds were used to treat the tumor bearing mice (group 4) in comparison to the use of camptothecin alone (group 3) or colchicine alone (group 2).

B. Effect of Single or Multiple Doses of Colchicine Administered in Mixed Sequence

Figure 5 demonstrates the results of an additional experiment using camptothecin and colchicine. In Figure 5, the arrow indicates a one hour interval separating treatment with each agent. The experimental compositions were prepared as described above. In two treatment groups, colchicine was administered orally in three doses ("colchx3" or "colchicine x 3"). When three dosages of colchicine were administered, the first was given

one hour after the administration of camptothecin (day 0), the second on day 1 and the third on day 2.

The data presented in Table 6 and Figure 5 demonstrate that administering three doses of colchicine to mice did not delay tumor growth significantly as compared to administering a single dose. However, administering camptothecin followed by three doses of colchicine delayed tumor growth more than did camptothecin alone, colchicine alone, or a one time dose of camptothecin followed by colchicine.

Table 6

Treatment	# of Tumors	Route	Dose (mg/kg)	Days to 4x (Ave ± SE)	T/C	Median	Delay
Untreated	8	-	--	7.5 ± 0.6	-	7.3	-
CPT	8	IP	6	12.9 ± 0.5	1.7	12.8	5.45
Colchicine	8	oral	10	7.7 ± 0.4	1.0	7.6	0.32
CPT→colch	8	IP/oral	6→10	13.0 ± 0.7	1.7	12.5	5.18
CPT→colchx3 (D-0,1,2)	6/8	IP/oral	6→10x3	16.5 ± 1.1	2.2	16.5	9.15
colch→CPT	8	oral/IP	10→6	13.5 ± 0.8	1.8	13.4	6.08
colchicine x 3 (D-0,1,2)	8	oral	10x3	7.2 ± 0.3	1.0	7.3	-0.04

The arrow → represents a 1 hour interval
D represents day of treatment.

Example 3: Chemopotentiation of Cisplatin by Colchicine

Cisplatin (David Bull Laboratories- Mulgrave, Australia, lot. 5201844x) was made to the appropriate concentration in water for injection. Colchicine was given orally in a volume of 100 µl. Cisplatin was injected systemically (i.e., intraperitoneally, i.p.), in a volume of 100 µl. For the treatment of group 3, colchicine was given orally immediately prior to the intraperitoneal injection of cisplatin. The experimental compositions were prepared as described in Table 7.

Table 7

Agent	Dose	Solvent	Supplier
Colchicine	2 mg/kg	Water for Injection	Sigma-Aldrich
Cisplatin	10 mg/kg	Water for injection	David Bull Labs

The data is presented in Table 8 below and in Figure 6.

Table 8

Group	Treatment	Dose (mg/kg)	TGD ± S.E.	TGD/CTGD	Median (TGD)	Delay (Days)
1	Untreated Control	-	6.3 ± 0.3	-	6.3	0.00
2	Colchicine	10	6.4 ± 0.3	1.0	6.3	0.02
3	Cisplatin	4	7.4 ± 0.3	1.2	7.7	1.45
4	Colchicine + Cisplatin	10 / 4	12.2 ± 1.7	1.9	9.9	3.59

The results of Table 8 indicate that the antiproliferative activity of cisplatin is enhanced by the use of colchicine in that a more than additive effect was observed when both compounds were used to treat the tumor bearing mice (group 4) in comparison to the use of cisplatin alone (group 3) or colchicine alone (group 2).

Example 4: Enhancement of Tubulin-Targeted Cell Killing by Colchicine After and During Treatment with Vinblastine

The experimental compositions were prepared as described in Table 9.

Table 9

Agent	Dose	Solvent	Supplier
Colchicine	1 mg/kg	Water for injection	Sigma
Vinblastine	1 mg/kg	Water for injection	Faulding (Elizabeth, NJ)

Vinblastine was obtained from Faulding (Elizabeth, NJ) and was made to the appropriate concentration in water for injection. The compositions (1 mg/kg of either colchicine or vinblastine) were injected systemically (i.e., intraperitoneally, i.p.), in a volume of 100 µl. For group 4, vinblastine treatments were given three times, on days 0, 3, and 6 (Day 0 is the first day of treatment). For group 6, vinblastine treatments were given twice, on days 0 and 3, and colchine was given on day 6. For group 5, four vinblastine treatments were given on days 0, 3, 6 and 8. For group 7, vinblastine treatments were given on days 0 and 3, a colchicine treatment was given on day 6, and a third vinblastine treatment was given on day 8.

The data are presented in Table 10 below and in Figure 7.

Table 10

Group	Treatment	Mean TVQT ± S.E.	TVQT/ CTVQT	Median (TVQT)	Delay (Days)
1	Untreated Control	6.3 ± 0.3	-	6	0.00
2	Colchicine	7.2 ± 0.5	1.1	7.2	1.15
3	Vinblastine-1x	6.6 ± 0.4	1.0	6.2	0.11
4	Vinblastine-3x	8.9 ± 0.9	1.4	7.8	1.78
5	Vinblastine-4x	8.4 ± .06	1.2	8.6	1.67
6	Vinblastine-2x/ Colchicine-1x	9.1 ± 1.0	1.4	8.2	2.15
7	Vinblastine-2x/ Colchicine-1x/ Vinblastine-1x	10.1 ± 0.9	1.6	10.1	4.01

The results of Table 3 indicate that the antiproliferative activity of vinblastine can be restored by the use of colchicine after vinblastine resistance has been achieved. As demonstrated in the graph in Figure 7, vinblastine given 3 or 4 times, and vinblastine given twice followed by one treatment of colchicine gave the same tumor growth delay curves. However, when vinblastine was given after colchicine, as in group 7, the tumor growth delay curve is

deflected to indicate renewed sensitivity to vinblastine. This result was repeated as demonstrated in Figure 8.

Example 5: Enhancement of Tubulin-Targeted Cell Killing by Colchicine After and During Treatment with Paclitaxel

The experimental compositions were prepared as described in Table 11.

Table 11

Agent	Dose	Solvent	Supplier
Colchicine	1 mg/kg	Water for injection	Sigma
Paclitaxel	10 mg/kg	saline	Mead-Johnson

Paclitaxel was obtained prediluted at 1 mg/ml in a cremaphor/ethanol solution. Colchicine was given at a dose of 2 mg/kg and paclitaxel was given, for each injection, at a dose of 10 mg/kg. For group 4, a total of three paclitaxel injections were given, one each on days 0, 3 and 5. The compositions were injected systemically (i.e., intraperitoneally, i.p.), in a volume of 100 µl.

The data are presented in Table 12 below and in Figure 9.

Table 12

Group	Treatment	Mean TVQT ± S.E.	TVQT/ CTVQT	Median (TVQT)	Delay (Days)
1	Untreated Control	7.5 ± 0.3	-	7.4	0.00
2	Colchicine	11.3 ± 0.6	1.5	10.8	3.34
3	Paclitaxel	9.1 ± 0.7	1.2	8.1	0.67
4	Paclitaxel- 3x	10.8 ± 1.9	1.4	9.0	1.59
5	Paclitaxel-3x /Colchicine-1x	13.8 ± 0.5	1.8	13.8	6.33

The results of Table 12 and Figure 9 indicate that paclitaxel treatment is slightly more effective in the RIF-1 model when given 3 times than when given once. However, tumors treated with paclitaxel are sensitive to colchicine treatment such that an improvement in anti-tubulin targeted therapy can be achieved.

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A method of treatment of a host with a cellular proliferative disease, comprising contacting said host with a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent, each in an amount sufficient to modulate said cellular proliferative disease.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said colchicine family member comprises colchicine, (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said colchicine family member comprises a colchicine analog.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said colchicine analog is thiocolchicoside, 2-demethoxy-2-glucosidoxythiocolchicine.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises an agent that interacts with nucleic acids.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises an agent that interacts with tubulin targets.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises taxanes, vinca alkaloids or a tubulin targeted agent.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises paclitaxel.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises vinblastine.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises alkylating agents, intercalating agents, metal coordination complexes, pyrimidine nucleosides, purine nucleosides, inhibitors of nucleic acid associated enzymes, or inhibitors of nucleic acid associated proteins.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises etoposide.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises camptothecin.

13. The method according to claim 1 wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises cisplatin.

14. A method according to claim 1 when said colchicine family member is administered before the administration of said antiproliferative agent.

15. A method according to claim 1 when said colchicine family member is administered during the administration of said antiproliferative agent.

16. A method according to claim 1 when said colchicine family member is administered after the administration of said antiproliferative agent.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the effect on said disease with said composition is greater than that for said antiproliferative agent alone.

18. A composition comprising a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein said colchicine family member comprises: colchicine, (S)-N-(5,6,7,9-tetrahydro-1,2,3,10-tetramethoxy-9-oxobenzo[a]heptalen-7-yl)acetamide.

20. The composition of claim 18 wherein said colchicine family member comprises a colchicine analog.

21. The composition of claim 18 wherein said colchicine analog is thiocolchicoside, 2-demethoxy-2-glucosidoxythiocolchicine.

22. The composition of claim 18, wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises etoposide, cisplatin, or camptothecin.

23. The composition of claim 18, wherein said antiproliferative agent comprises vinblastine or paclitaxel.

24. Use of a colchicine family member and an antiproliferative agent in the formulation of a medicament for the treatment of a cellular proliferative disease.

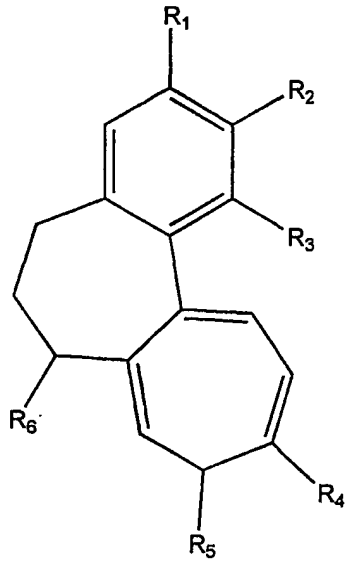

FIGURE 1

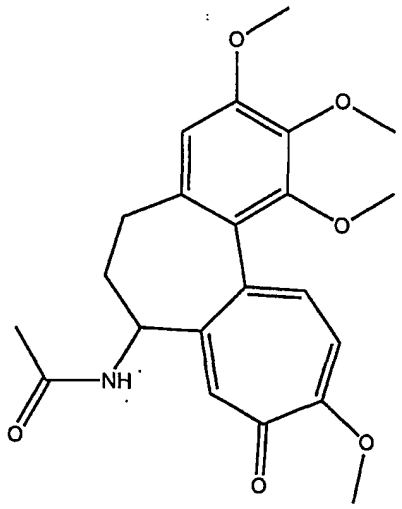

FIGURE 2

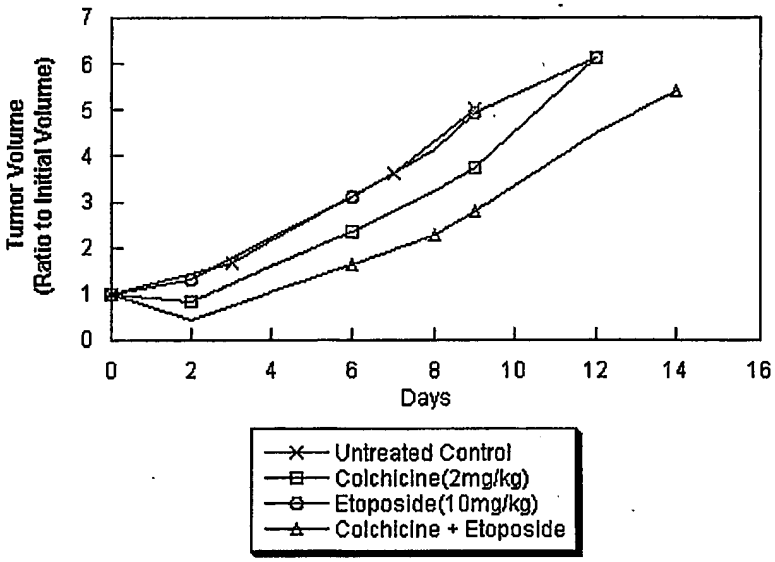
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
Days
Untreated Control
Colchicine(2mg/kg)
Etoposide(10mg/kg)
Colchicine + Etoposide

FIGURE 3

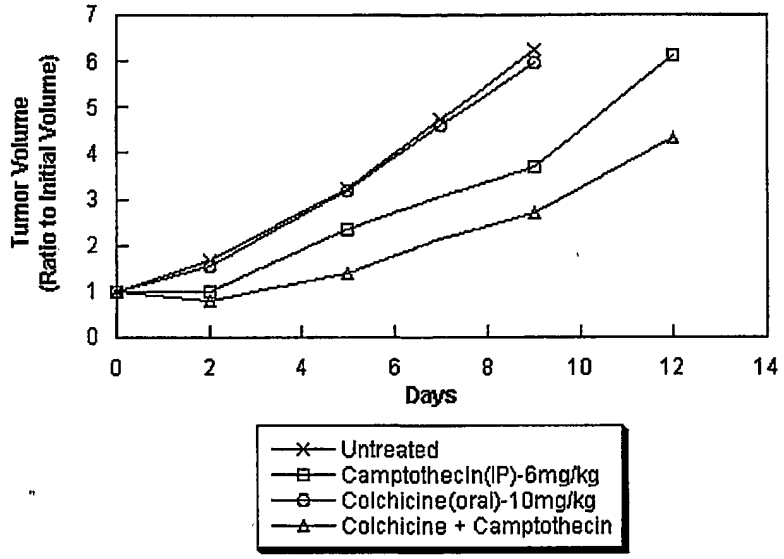
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
Days
Untreated
Camptothecin(IP)-6mg/kg
Colchicine(oral)-10mg/kg
Colchicine + Camptothecin

FIGURE 4

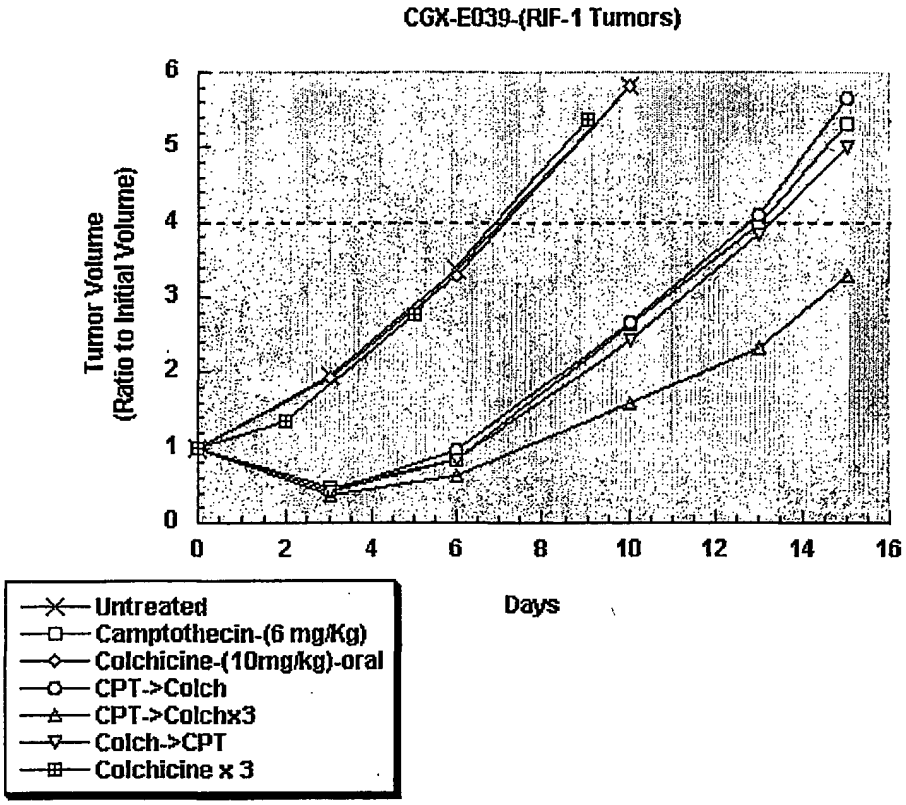
CGX-E039-(RIF-1 Tumors)
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
Days
Untreated
Camptothecin-(6 mg/Kg)
Colchicine-(10mg/kg)-oral
CPT->Colch
CPT->Colchx3
Colch->CPT
Colchicine x 3

FIGURE 5

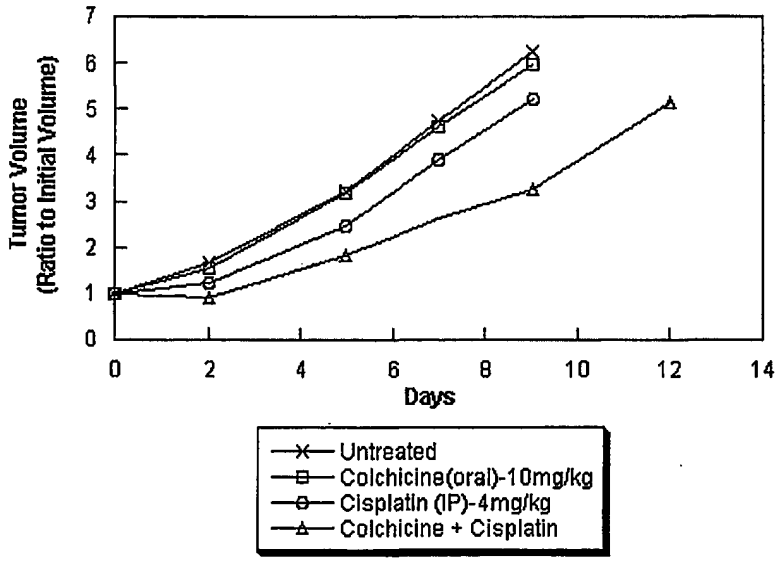
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
Days
Untreated
Colchicine(oral)-10mg/kg
Cisplatin (IP)-4mg/kg
Colchicine + Cisplatin

FIGURE 6

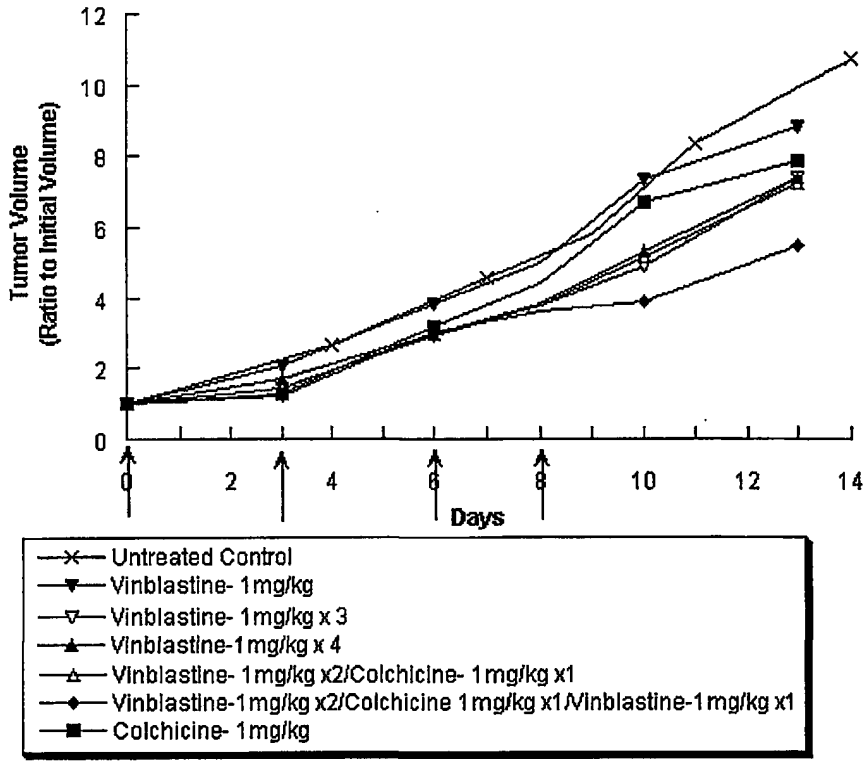
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
Days
Untreated Control
Vinblastine- 1mg/kg
Vinblastine- 1mg/kg x 3
Vinblastine-1mg/kg x 4
Vinblastine- 1mg/kg x2/Colchicine- 1mg/kg x1
Vinblastine-1mg/kg x2/Colchicine 1mg/kg x1/Vinblastine-1mg/kg x1
Colchicine- 1mg/kg

FIGURE 7

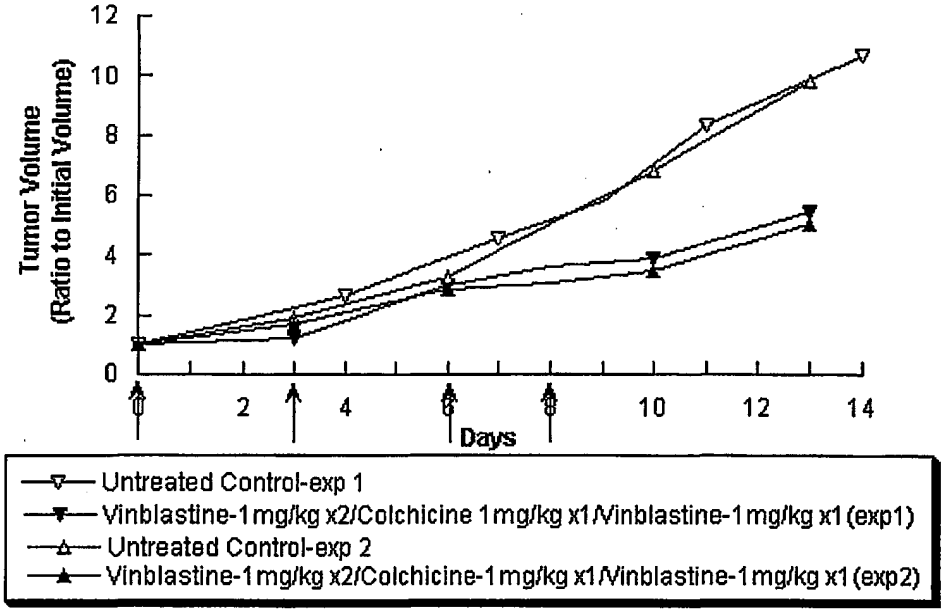
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
Days
Untreated Control-exp 1
Vinblastine-1mg/kg x2/Colchicine 1mg/kg x1/Vinblastine-1mg/kg x1 (exp1)
Untreated Control-exp 2
Vinblastine-1mg/kg x2/Colchicine-1mg/kg x1/Vinblastine-1mg/kg x1 (exp2)

FIGURE 8

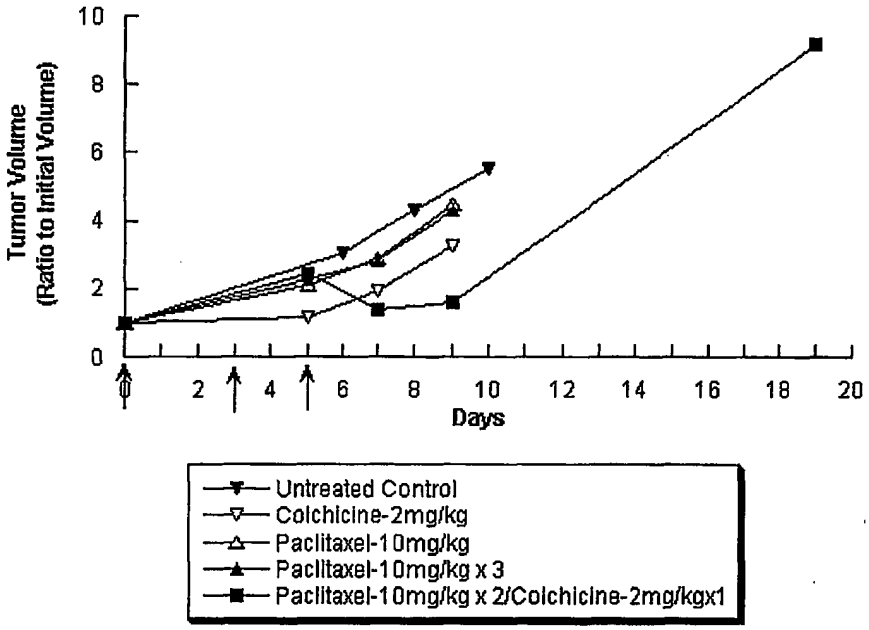
Tumor Volume
(Ratio to Initial Volume)
10
8
6
4
2
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16
18
20
Days
Untreated Control
Colchicine-2mg/kg
Paclitaxel-10mg/kg
Paclitaxel-10mg/kg x 3
Paclitaxel-10mg/kg x 2/Colchicine-2mg/kgx1

FIGURE 9